

AFRCC assists in landmark rescue

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va.
— A Cleveland man was rescued Nov. 14, through the help of a personal locator beacon and the organized efforts of the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, here.

The rescue marks the first such use of personal locator beacons in the contiguous United States.

Carl Skalak was in the Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York when he was snowed in at his campsite. Faced with frigid weather, four-foot snow drifts and a frozen river that he had paddled in on, Mr. Skalak activated his personal beacon, thereby alerting the AFRCC of a distress. The AFRCC is the single federal agency for search and rescue in the 48 contiguous states.

The center received the distress call at 10:45 a.m. EST via the Search and Rescue Satellite Air Tracking System, which is operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

According to Lt. Col. Scott Morgan, the center's commander, when the beacon alert came in, the center notified the appropriate state emergency rescue agency in the area where the beacon was activated. In this case, the Herkimer County (N.Y.) Sheriff's Department worked with the AFRCC and provided information to the U.S. Forest Service at Watson East Triangle.

"The center has many resources available to dispatch on a moment's notice to aid in search and rescue efforts," said the colonel. "The beacons help pinpoint the location of a person in distress."

Due to heavy snows, forest service rangers were unable to reach Mr. Skalak's

See *RESCUE*, Page 9



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carrie Hinson

Part of the 14-member crew of the AC-130H Gunship "Grim 31" stand with their aircraft on the Hurlburt Field flightline. The 16th Special Operations Squadron crew was awarded the Clarence Mackay Trophy Nov. 10 for the most meritorious flight of the year.

Gunship crew awarded Mackay Trophy

By 1st Lt. Gabe Johnson
Public Affairs

An AC-130H Spectre Gunship crew from the 16th Special Operations Squadron here was awarded the prestigious Clarence Mackay Trophy for most meritorious flight of the year, Nov. 10.

The 14 members of "Grim 31" received the Air Force-level award for saving the lives of 82 U.S. soldiers and two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters and crew during a close air support mission over Afghanistan's Shah-e-Kot Valley March 2, 2002 – the second day of Operation Anaconda.

"This honor speaks volumes about the airmanship and outstanding professionalism of the crew," said Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander. "Their actions illustrate the important role Air Commandos play in the global war on terrorism."

According to the award citation, overwhelming Taliban and Al-Qaida forces surrounded members of the Army's 10th Mountain Division on the first day of the operation. As a fierce battle ensued, the company needed medical evacuation for critically injured soldiers.

The crew of Grim 31 was tapped to escort two HH-60 helicopters for the evacuation.

"We typically fly at night, but on this occasion they woke us up and sent us in there early so we would be in position over the target area right when it got dark," said the fire control officer, a lieutenant colonel in charge of directing fire and coordinating target selection.

The FCO, whose name is not released for security purposes, said Grim 31 worked closely with an enlisted tactical air controller on the ground to engage enemy positions clearing the

way for the rescue helicopters.

"It all came back to our training. We train to look at multiple targets. We train to work with people on the ground. It's definitely a team effort to make the mission a success."

"The 40mm malfunctioned three times that night, and each time we responded like clockwork," said the lead gunner, a master sergeant in charge of the gun crew.

Spectre Gunship's carry one 40mm Bofors cannon and one 105mm Howitzer cannon.

"We switched over to the 105mm and used that until the 40mm got cleared and was put back on line. We just bounced back and forth between the two guns as our FCO needed them," said the sergeant.

"That night we were just on. Everyone had their game faces on."

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News

AF Climate Survey


Time is running out to take the 2003 Air Force Climate Survey. Hurlburt Field's participation goal is 65 percent.

Current participation:

- Air Force** – 47.9%
- AFSOC** – 54.9%
- 16th SOW** – 56.5%

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Feature



Decon dynamo

New tent speeds decontamination of NBC exposure

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Sports



Eglin vs Hurlburt

Commandos bring basketball to the Eagles' home turf

Page 15

Weather

Weekend forecast

Today – partly cloudy, High 70 Low 48

Saturday – partly cloudy, High 75 Low 51

Sunday – mostly cloudy, High 75 Low 54

www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/weather/5day

VIEWPOINTS

Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. I really appreciate your feedback.

To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the

COMMANDO. I'll answer the others by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you, and perhaps improve their process.

However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give me a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.



Col. O.G. Mannon

Buckle up over the holidays

Courtesy of the 16th SOW Safety Office

Florida's law enforcement agencies are set to join in a national effort to curb traffic fatalities over the 2003-2004 holiday season.

The joint "Buckle Up Florida' Safety Belt Enforcement Wave," and "You Drink and Drive. You Lose." will take place in Florida from Nov. 21 through Jan. 4. During this time, those who don't comply with Florida's safety belt laws will be ticketed.

This will be the third safety belt enforcement campaign in Florida for 2003, all of which were scheduled to take place during times when traffic numbers were heightened. A projection by the AAA Auto Club estimates that 8.8 million people in the Southeast will travel by car over the holiday.

The focus of the joint campaign is to reduce the number of potential highway fatalities by getting motorists buckled up.

The "You Drink and Drive. You Lose." mobilization is an effort to prevent impaired people from getting behind the wheel, said Chip Monts, Coordinator of Safe and Sober, the Florida Department of Transportation program which oversees the mobilization.

"The name of the mobilization says it pretty clearly," he said. "If you're caught driving impaired, you lose your license; you lose money; you lose time at work and with your family, and you could lose your life or the life of a loved one. And during this mobilization, there will be so many special enforcement patrols in place; the odds are high that if you do choose to drive impaired, you will not get away with it. You



will lose." The consequences for a DUI arrest and conviction can be staggering. A motorist's license is administratively suspended for a minimum of six months when arrested for DUI. If the motorist refuses to take the required test for alcohol or drug impairment, the minimum suspension is 12 months. A motorist who refuses to take the test and has been suspended for previously refusing to take the required test commits a first-degree misdemeanor.

A person convicted of DUI may have to pay fees and fines totaling more than \$6,000, spend time in jail, perform community service and complete a DUI school. For more information on Buckle Up Florida, visit www.buckleupflorida.com. To receive an anonymous free ride, call the Airmen Against Drunk Driving at 598-1302.



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Submitting articles

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Centennial of Flight

In 1909 the Army Signal Corps bought its first "air machine." It chose an improved version of the Wright Flyer, and the U.S. military was in the aviation business.

But it was still rough going at first. The infant service had to count on its own people – mostly young infantry and cavalry – for direction. They had to

learn by doing. Invent as they progressed. Brainstorm and try ideas they thought would work. And they also had to keep convincing their leaders that their fledgling force would one day make a difference in the way the U.S. military would fight.



Hurlburt Field DUI Tracker

Nov. 10 – Nov. 15:

1 DUI

16th Component

Maintenance

Squadron

Days since last DUI: 6

Total DUIs this year to

date: 48

Total DUIs for 2002:

47

Airmen Against

Drunk Driving

Don't Drink and Drive.

Call 598-1302

Potential saves this

year: 86

**Article submissions
for the Commando
should be sent to
commando@hurlburt.af.mil**

Classified advertisements must be typed into a database at the Public Affairs office in Building 90210, Room 326. The deadline for submissions is 4 p.m. Friday one week prior to publication.

News

2003 Angel Tree

Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, and his son Brandon, check out the 2003 Angel Tree in the base exchange. The Angel Tree, organized by the Hurlburt Field Company Grade Officer's Council, runs until Dec. 12 in the Hurlburt Field Base Exchange.

During this time period, first sergeants can nominate anyone with children who they feel might need assistance during the holidays. After that person has been nominated, he or she then fills out an application/information form.

Applications must be turned in to 1st Lt. Amanda Cheatham or 1st Lt. Christine Gentry, no later than Dec. 5. Lieutenant Cheatham will contact the member or their squadron point of contact to arrange a time and location for the gifts to be picked up. The pick-up date is scheduled for Dec. 15.

All information is kept confidential and will only be accessible by Lieutenants Cheatham and Gentry and the individual's first sergeant. The "angels" placed on the tree will only have the child's first name and an identification code.

For more information, call Lieutenant Cheatham at 884-2897 or Lieutenant Gentry at 881-3380.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Greg Davis

Airman 1st
Class Ashley
Haracz

Understand Force Development

Spread the word briefings will be conducted Dec. 4, noon to 2 p.m. and 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the base theatre for all Hurlburt Field officers to discuss the new Force Development concept. (At this time, briefings are for officers

only and not required for enlisted/civilian personnel.)

For an overview of Air Force force development, read the Oct. 7, 2003, CSAF Sight Picture. Log on to www.af.mil/lib/sight/Total_Force_Development.pdf

Be prepared for December UCI

The Air Force Special Operations Command headquarters Inspector general will conduct a unit Compliance Inspection of the 16th Special Operations Wing Dec. 1-12. The IG team is composed of 58 inspectors and functional experts from across the command.

While here, the team will examine Common Core Compliance Areas and spe-

cial interest items to ensure the wing is abiding by law, executive orders and Department Of Defense directives. The team will also oversee a Major Accident Response Exercise during inspection. During the UCI, be cognizant of proper protocol and extend proper customs and courtesies. The last time the headquarters inspected the 16th SOW was during a UCI in 2000.

Battlelab recognized for new technology

By Capt. Tom Knowles
Public Affairs

A new technology pioneered by Command and Control Battlelab personnel assigned to Hurlburt Field won national accolades at a recent Government Computer News awards ceremony.

Dubbed the Master Air Attack Plan Toolkit, the technology was one of only 10 projects selected to win this year's GCN Awards for Excellence in Information Technology.

The MAAP Toolkit is a software application designed to conveniently retrieve and display the information needed to build a master air attack plan by continuously bringing near instantaneous information on threats and resources to the air component commander.

The result is faster, more accurate decision-making with fewer people and resources required in the air operations center.

More than 100 entries from groups ranging from civilian, government and military agencies were considered for the award. All were scored for innovation, support of program or policy goals and good acquisition and IT management.

"The idea for this started with the Persian Gulf War and with the Bosnia campaign while preparing the master air attack plan," said Col. Jon Krenkel, Command & Control Battlelab commander.

"That process was very manual and very labor intensive. You would have to gather a complete set of targets and assets from a variety of sources, including airplanes available, the munitions that they had, where they were coming from, where they had to go to, and try to tie all that together in a coherent logical manner," he said.

Noting the time required and difficul-

ties associated with creating the MAAP manually, the lab developed the MAAP Toolkit to consolidate the information, placing it at the air planners "fingertips." The concept was a hit, ultimately streamlining the process, saving time and reducing potential errors.

"What we have done is created a software tool which allows us to transition from a process which had previously been accomplished manually, essentially with yellow 'stickies,' and grease pencils, and do it instead with a computer program," said Lt. Col. Doug Combs, chief of the Concepts Execution Division at the C2 Battlelab.

The MAAP Toolkit software allows air planners to access and view existing real-time databases, provided by a variety of networks on one computer display, and use this information to quickly and efficiently match weapons to targets with the "click of a mouse."

All of this information is updated continuously, allowing air planners to produce a near real-time picture of air assets.

Other useful and available data made possible via the software includes, but is not limited to, predicted theater wide weather and theater maps, JTF/JFACC guidance, unit level resource information, information from the intelligence and operations databases, real-time threats, intelligence preparation of the battlespace and the target nomination list.

"For example, the toolkit can display a map of the battlespace and a list of targets on the monitor," said Colonel Krenkel. "This information is updated frequently and provided by intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance agents. In a smaller

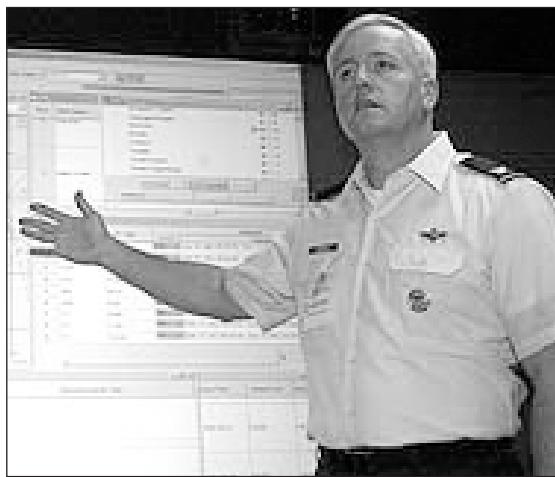


Photo by Staff Sgt. Todd Lopez

Col. Jon Krenkel, commander of the Air Force's Command and Control Battlelab, points out features of the master air attack plan toolkit. The toolkit is a new suite of software tools designed to make production of the MAAP and the subsequent air tasking order quicker and less prone to error. The MAAP toolkit was used successfully at the 2002 Joint Expeditionary Forces Experiment at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

window on the same screen is a list of available aircraft and munitions that can be assigned to attack the targets.

"By referencing this information via the toolkit, Air Force battle managers can easily combine air assets and munitions by 'dragging and dropping' aircraft and munitions between menus, to create an air strike package. From there, the packages can be assigned to targets," Colonel Krenkel continued.

The revolutionary tool enjoyed recent success in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom when it was used to plan the air war.

Since then, it has evolved to become the standard means for assigning fighter, attack and bomber aircraft, proving itself to be a key enabler of precision engagement for the 21st century Air Force.

News Briefs

Flag retirement ceremony here

The Hurlburt Field Top 3 hosts a flag retirement ceremony at 4 p.m., Dec. 4 near the Enlisted Hooch. The base community is invited to attend the ceremony, which will honorably dispose of faded and unserviceable American Flags.

Under the U.S. Flag Code, American Flags, which have become faded and worn, should be honorably retired and properly disposed of during a retirement ceremony.

The ceremony involves burning the flags and then burying the ashes and grommets. Though the Hurlburt Field Top 3 has collected American Flags for disposal at this ceremony, other American Flags in disrepair will be collected at the event for retirement at a later date.

For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Chuck Spence at 884-6415. **(AFSOC News)**

IDEA program pays big

The Air Force Innovative Development through Employee Awareness Program is an incentive program that recognizes Air Force people for their approved ideas on how to save resources, increase efficiency or improve processes, products or equipment. Awards may be monetary or nonmonetary.

Cash awards range from \$200 to \$10,000, depending on the validated tangible savings and/or intangible benefits.

Eligibility criteria for ideas include:

○Must be the submitter's own thought or a new application of an old principle

○Must be submitted with the intent to benefit the U.S. government

○Must outline a specific area for improvement, state a workable solution and incorporate expected benefits

AF supports Operation Iron Hammer

By John D. Banusiewicz
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — An AC-130 gunship helped destroy a warehouse when Operation Iron Hammer kicked off Nov. 12 with a series of coordinated U.S. strikes against anti-coalition insurgents in Iraq.

Iron Hammer is a joint operation to target enemy operating areas, stop the enemy from staging weapons for use against coalition forces and Baghdad citizens, and destroy enemy forces conducting mortar attacks against Baghdad.

The gunship and about a dozen Bradley fighting vehicles destroyed a warehouse insurgents had been using as a headquarters for some strikes against coalition forces.

A Defense Department-issued statement said the warehouse was

"a known meeting, planning, storage and rendezvous point for belligerent elements currently conducting attacks on coalition forces and infrastructure."

There were no reports of people in the vicinity of the warehouse at the time of the attack, according to a U.S. Central Command report.

The operation's first salvo came when 1st Armored Division soldiers saw mortar rounds being fired from a van and gave chase, noting stops it made. An AH-64 Apache helicopter followed the van out of the village and attacked it, killing two suspected insurgents and wounding three others. Five others were captured. Soldiers found an 82 mm mortar launch tube at one of the van's stops and are searching the others, CENTCOM officials said.

About a half hour later, near Sadia, the gunship and tanks joined in the operation. **(AFPN)**

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3 X 10.00**

Air Force Climate Survey wrapping up

Wing airmen encouraged to 'Speak today, shape tomorrow'

By Capt. Tom Knowles
Public Affairs

Time is running out for airmen to take the 2003 Air Force Climate Survey, which officially wraps up Sunday.

The survey, dubbed "Speak Today, Shape Tomorrow," launched Oct. 1 and takes about 30 minutes to complete. Offered every two years since 1997, it's designed to give Air Force leaders honest, identity-protected feedback about the organization and provides information leaders at all levels can use to improve an organization's climate, effectiveness and productivity.

"The goal of the survey is to make things better for our people and our organizations," said 2nd Lt. Charlotte Smart, 16th Special Operations Wing, and Glenda Hartman, base climate survey project officers. "This is a great opportunity for everyone to provide direct feedback to the Air Force Chief of Staff about how well your leadership and organizations are functioning."

The survey isn't a quality of life survey or a military equal opportunity survey. Its purpose is to act as a feedback mecha-

nism to measure the climate of an organization. There are thirteen sections which include: leadership, unit performance, outcomes, supervision general satisfaction, teamwork, training and development, the job, resources, participation and involvement, unit flexibility, core values, job enhancement, and recognition.

Previous surveys included participation by active-duty officers and enlisted airmen, as well as appropriated-fund civilians. For the first time, the 2003 survey includes Guard and Reserve airmen and non-appropriated fund civilians. Survey results will be released in early 2004.

"I strongly encourage everyone to take time out of their schedules to participate," said Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander. "Doing so can only make our Air Force better."

To take the survey online from either a government or personal computer, log on to <http://afclimatesurvey.af.mil>. The survey is also available on AF Link, at www.af.mil under AF Specials on the left of the page.

MACKAY,

Continued from page 1

As the two HH-60s landed to collect the wounded, a rocket propelled grenade exploded 20 feet behind them. Grim 31 quickly engaged the enemy RPG position clearing the evacuation for take-off.

"After the helicopters took off we felt like we could cover the guys on the ground, but the pressure was still there because of the chances that someone else could pop out and start shooting down there," said the lieutenant colonel. "You could tell that the enemy didn't have the capability to continue, but the real sigh of relief was when we pulled off and started heading home."

"A few days after the mission almost everyone who was in the valley that night came to our tents to thank us," said the sergeant. "There's no award in the world that could make us feel any better than we did at that moment."

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Hurlburt Field gets new VRC program coordinator

A new Volunteer Resource Coordinator, Heather Gerlach, has been hired at the family support center, and is ready to take the program to new heights.

The Volunteer Resource Program is a service afforded to any spouse, active duty member, reservist or retiree who desires a meaningful volunteer experience. Volunteers provide time, support and resources to a variety of organizations and activities to make the base community the best it can be.

Hurlburt Field also benefits from the economic contribution volunteers make. Last year it was estimated that 600 volunteers amassed more than 67,000 hours, saving the Hurlburt Field community \$1,119,000. As staggering as that figure may seem, it's probably a considerable underestimation.

Volunteering does not have

to be a full-time job. Some volunteers give just one hour of time each week; others devote many hours to ongoing commitments. Volunteers are also involved in one-time events and special service projects. Whatever time you are willing to give, the Volunteer Resource Coordinator can find something for you.

The Hurlburt Field Volunteer Resource Program has been around since 1989. Since that time numerous volunteers have given freely of their time and talents, and the contributions they've made to the base are limitless.

There are a myriad of different ways someone can get involved, and the new Volunteer Resource Coordinator wants to meet you. For more information, call Heather Gerlach at 884-1533.

RESCUE, *Continued from page 1*

campsite and requested flight assistance. The AFRCC scrambled the Fort Drum Air Ambulance Detachment, which launched a UH-1 helicopter and medical team to assist in the search effort.

Upon arriving on scene the rescue crew received a flashlight signal from Mr. Skalak who was then airlifted to Fort Drum for medical evaluation before being released.

"A thank you doesn't even begin to cover my appreciation," said Mr. Skalak. "I am profoundly thankful for all those who were willing to put themselves in harm's way on my behalf. Many terrific people worked together to make this mission a success."

The team effort is what makes the beacon system a success, said Colonel Morgan.

"This was a team effort between NOAA and the AFRCC from the beginning to bring the system to fruition in the U.S.," he said. "Working together, we have been able to establish a system that which allows for a quicker response by emergency personnel."

The beacon sends out digital distress signals detected by NOAA's Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites, or GOES, and Polar-orbiting Operational Environmental Satellites, or POES.

The GOES, the first to detect a beacon's distress signal, hover in a fixed orbit above Earth and receive the signals, which contain registration information about the beacon and its owner. The POES constantly circle the globe, enabling them to capture and accurately locate the alerts to within a few miles.

When individuals purchase the personal beacons they are required to register them with NOAA. This registration, according to the NOAA, includes critical information such as the owner's name, address, telephone number and the beacon's identification number. According to NOAA officials, the system worked like a gem.

"This particular rescue demonstrates how well our agencies work together when it comes to saving a life," said Mr. Ajay Mehta, NOAA's SARSAT Program Manager. "The AFRCC, in particular, has really taken the lead for implementing PLBs across the nation and has worked with us and the states to ensure a robust search and rescue network was in place. This first rescue is a testament to our collective efforts," he added.

The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center is a unit of Air Force Special Operations Command, transferring with the Air Force Combat Search and Rescue realignment in October 2003. **(AFSOC NFNS – NOAA Public Relations contributed to this story.)**

Wear your safety belt: Buckle Up Florida! A DUI enforcement mobilization, combined with the "You Drink and Drive. You Lose." initiative will run through Jan. 4. During this time, mandatory seat-belt use will be specifically enforced. Buckle up – it's the law.

**ARMED FORCES COMM INC
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3 X 11.50**

Digital radiology makes X-rays better

**By Senior Airman
Sam Taylor**
Public Affairs

New digital radiology equipment at the 16th Medical Group has improved the way patients get X-ray examinations.

With the equipment, repeat examinations have been reduced by 50 percent, saving time and reducing the amount of radiation exposed to patients and technicians, said Master Sgt. Stephanie Scott, 16th Medical Support Squadron.

Another important improvement is the environmental aspect, said Sergeant Scott. "With this system, the hazardous chemicals associated with developing film are eliminated."

X-ray image quality has also improved significantly, as technicians are able to digitally add more or less detail

to images. Operating costs have decreased because of dwindling requirements for film, processing equipment, chemicals and archiving space, "not to mention the labor required to manage these activities," said Sergeant Scott. "Once we're on-line and able to send X-ray images electronically, Hurlburt Field and Eglin (Air Force Base) providers will be able to view patients' exams on their own computers, allowing instant access and diagnosis."

Patients will no longer need to bring X-rays back and forth between bases, she said.

The new equipment is just one example of the improvements under way at the 16th MDG, said Sergeant Scott. "With the completion of the construction project projected for next spring, people will see improvements throughout the entire organization."

FEATURE



Photos by Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis

Team members thoroughly wash and scrub the dummy victim as one of the steps in the decontamination process.



A dummy victim's vital signs are checked before the IPPDC team proceeds with the decontamination process.



As part of the demonstration, the team sets up and breaks down the structure.

Clinic upgrades decontamination capabilities

By Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

The 16th Medical Group recently received the new military In-Place Patient Decontamination Capability, designed to protect hospital personnel and decontaminate patients after nuclear, chemical or biological attacks.

The IPPDC, which was developed in March 2002 after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, is now required at all military training facilities, said 1st Lt. Rudi Dimas, 16th Medical Operations Squadron, team chief for the IPPDC.

Hurlburt Field recently trained clinic members on the new equipment.

Because of the serious implications of an NBC attack, Lieutenant Dimas

said he wants all clinic personnel to eventually be trained on the equipment.

"The tent will be set up once a quarter for training purposes," Lieutenant Dimas said. "My goal is to have the entire medical group trained because you never know who will be at work when an attack or incident takes place."

Twenty-one personnel have attended the seven-day training course so far. Tom Bocek, who not only led the course, but was also one of the pioneers in the field who helped design the current system, discussed with the team the effects of weapons of mass destruction on a base and how to attend to patients after they've been exposed.

The team was also given the necessary gear to protect themselves from a

NBC exposure. Each received a threat level C protection suit, which includes a pieced air respirator that allows air to flow inside the hood.

They were also given rubber gloves and boots, which were wrapped securely with duct tape around their wrists and ankles.

According to Lieutenant Dimas, the cost of the entire package – to include the tent and suits – was estimated at \$66,000, but well worth the money.

"The firefighters decontaminate on the scene, but patients don't stay where an accident takes place," Lieutenant Dimas said, "they go to the hospital. This is a very practical team – no other team can function without us in a chemical incident."

According to REEVES, the company that constructs the IPPDC, the tent is capable of treating 30 ambulatory and 10 walk-in victims in one hour. It's also constructed to withstand 50 mile per hour winds and 65 mph gusts.

However, with such an extravagant amount of equipment, including showers, gurneys, a rolling conveyer mechanism and cleansing hoses, it's possible to think the tent would be difficult to construct. Not so.

The Hurlburt Field team broke a new Air Force record by erecting the 20-foot long, 13.8-foot wide, 8.11-foot tall structure with a suited-up four-person team in three minutes and 37 seconds.

"There are no drawbacks to the IPPDC," said Lieutenant Dimas.

Prison camp donates large workforce to base

By Myra Lowrey
*Prison camp
 public information officer*

The Federal Prison Camp, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, was founded in 1962, under a maintenance contract agreement with the U. S. Air Force. The mission of the Federal Prison Camp is to provide needed manpower to the Air Force, for which there are no appropriated funds, and to assist the inmates in the rehabilitative process.

The Federal Prison Camp was established as a minimum-security facility housing inmates primarily from the Southeastern United States. Inmates designated to the camp require minimal supervision, and do not have prior records of escape, violence, sexual offenses, or major medical/psychiatric problems.

The primary mission of the camp is to provide auxiliary ground maintenance for the Air Force. Labor performed by inmates on the Air Force Base is under the supervision of civilian Air Force personnel or active-duty staff. Roads and grounds details make up the largest single category of jobs. The inmate work day, for those assigned to base work details, starts at 6:30 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Approximately 469 inmates provide a workforce to over 50 base work details. Most of the programs offered to the inmate population, such as education, recreation and groups are offered in the evening hours after the inmate's workday has concluded.

If you have concerns or ques-

tions regarding the Federal Prison Camp, they can either be submitted in writing to the Eglin Federal Prison Camp, or by contacting the public information officer at 882-8522. A list of rules for federal inmates is provided to familiarize you with some of the regulations inmates must follow when on their job assignment.

Rules Regarding Federal Inmates:

○Inmates aren't allowed in public eating establishments.

○Inmates aren't allowed to attend base office parties or to receive any type of gifts, including food or drinks.

○Inmates are prohibited from performing any service of a personal nature, such as washing a personal vehicle, gardening at non-governmental housing, or performing auto repair.

○Inmates aren't allowed to use telephones for any purpose while on base.

○Military or civilian staff are prohibited from placing telephone calls for inmates.

○Inmates aren't permitted in personally owned vehicles.

○Besides transporting an inmate to and from his work detail site, inmates may not be taken off Air Force property without prior approval from the federal prison.

○All inmates must wear the government-issued work uniform while on base work details (khaki in color).

○Friendliness without fraternization should be the policy at all times. Inmates aren't permitted to converse with anyone except authorized personnel.

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Hurlburt Happenings

Military

Hurlburt Toastmasters meeting

The Hurlburt Toastmasters Club invites all interested personnel to attend their Wednesday meeting from noon to 1 p.m. in Classroom J at the Hurlburt Field Education Center. The club helps individuals improve and develop speaking, listening and leadership skills through a mutually supportive and positive learning environment – fostering self-confidence and personal growth. For more information, call Marty Mears at 884-9130 or e-mail marty.mears@hurlburt.af.mil, or call Staff Sgt. Darius Kersh at 881-4749 or e-mail darius.kersh@hurlburt.af.mil.

Undergraduate flight training

The next undergraduate flying training board convenes at the Air Force Personnel Center March 2. This selection board will review applications for pilot and navigator only. Those officers with a date of birth after April 1, 1974, and a TFCSD after April 1, 1999, are eligible to apply for UFT.

Applicants must send the completed application, postmarked by Jan. 16, to HQ AFPC/DPAOT3, 550 C Street, West Suite 31, Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4733. Applicants should advise commanders/supervisors providing the AF Form 215 of the application deadline. All applicants competing for pilot training must also complete the Basic Attributes Test. For more information on application procedures, contact the 16th Mission Support Squadron, Military Personnel Flight, at 884-5251.

Highway 98 Closures

U.S. Highway 98 will experience three road closures approximately five miles west of Hurlburt Field at the Wynnhaven Beach area Dec. 12 and 17, due to U.S. Marine Corps Expeditionary training being conducted at Eglin Air Force Base to ensure combat readiness.

The closures are expected to last up to 30 minutes in duration and will occur between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., to allow Amphibious Assault Vehicles and Abrams tanks to cross Highway 98 enroute to the Eglin AFB range. Marines are expected to cross back Dec 17 during the same time period. Motorists traveling on this portion of Highway 98 during this timeframe should add an hour to their travel plans.

NY Air Guard

The 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, N.Y., home of the C-130 ski-birds, has traditional Guard vacancies in the following career fields: 1A2X1, 1C0X2, 1C3X1, 1N0X1, 2A5X1, 2A5X3, 2A6X1, 2A6X2, 2A6X4, 2A6X5, 2A6X6, 2A7X1, 2A7X3, 2E1X3, 2F0X1, 2S0X1, 2T0X1, 3C1X1, 3C3X1, 3M0X1, 3P0X1, 4A0X1, 4A1X1, 4A2X1, 4D0X1, 4N0X1, 4P0X1, 4T0X1 and 6C0X1. There are also full-time active-duty positions available in 1T1X1, 2A5X1 and 2A7X3. For more information, call Master Sgt. Wesley Ryerson at DSN 344-2456, e-mail wesley.ryerson@nyscot.ang.af.mil or call 1-800-524-5070.

16th MDG public notice

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations conducts an accreditation survey of the 16th Medical Group Dec. 3-4. The purpose of the survey is to evaluate the organization's compliance with nationally established Joint Commission conditions under

which accreditation should be awarded the organization. The survey will focus on care issues and safety of the environment in which the care is provided. The public is encouraged to submit pertinent and valid information to the Joint Commission's field representatives at the time of the survey.

Submissions must first be made in writing and submitted no later than five working days before the survey. However, public interviews regarding particular organizations may be conducted through the Joint Commission at the time of the survey. All requests should include the nature of the information to be provided at the interview and sent to:

**Division of Accreditation Operations
Office of Quality Monitoring
Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations**

**One Renaissance Boulevard
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181**

Submissions can also be faxed to 630-792-5636 or e-mailed to complaint@jcaho.org.

The Joint Commission will acknowledge requests in writing or by telephone to inform the organization of the request for any interview. The interviewee will then notified by the organization with the date, time and location of the meeting.

Sub-Saharan JSOU course

The Joint Special Operations University conducts a Sub-Saharan Africa Orientation Course Dec. 1-5. The course provides individuals a broad overview of information on the Sub-Saharan Africa region, with emphasis on cultural, historical and political issues. Many guest speakers will address the class throughout the course. For more information or to enroll in the course, call Dann Mattiza at 884-5749 or Joyce Weber at 884-4731.

Jobs available

The Air Force is looking for sharp senior airmen and staff sergeants to cross train into the Manpower and Organization career field, 3U0X1. If you're available to cross train and are interested in a challenging, high visibility and rewarding career in an area of human resource management, e-mail ramon.rogado@hurlburt.af.mil.

Community

Clinic closure

The 16th Medical Group closes Thursday and Nov. 28 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. For any emergency needs, the Eglin Air Force Base emergency room will be open. The clinic will be open Dec. 1.

Protestant celebration service

All are welcomed to attend the 40 Days of Purpose Celebration Service Sunday at 11:30 a.m. at the base chapel. This will be the only Protestant service held at the chapel that day. The service will be followed by a light lunch in the chapel fellowship hall. For more information, call the chapel at 884-7795.

Early publication

The Commando newspaper publishes Wednesday due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Also, because of the long weekend, all classified ads must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. Wednesday for the following week. For more information, call 884-7464.

Hurlburt Field Chapel 884-7795



Catholic Mass

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request.

Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday

Religious Education: September–May

Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (praise & worship),

11:30 a.m. (traditional),

12:45 p.m. (Gospel)

Religious Education: August – May

Youth and Singles groups available

Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center

Havdallah services: next-to-the-last Saturday of each month, 7 p.m., Chapel annex

Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center

Jumuah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

Qur'an: Saturday, 6 p.m.

At the movies

Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Hurlburt Field 884-7648

Friday – (PG-13) "School of Rock," starring Jack Black and Joan Cusack – Fired from his band, rock guitarist and vocalist Dewey Finn take a job as a fourth grade substitute teacher at an uptight private school. His goal is to recruit a nine-year-old guitarist to play lead in a band that will win a "battle of the bands," solving his money problems and re-establishing him as a respected rocker.

Saturday – (PG-13) "Out of Time," starring Denzel Washington and Sanaa Lathan – When the police chief of a small Florida town "borrows" money from the evidence room so he can run away with a woman, she quickly betrays him. Now with his reputation and career on the line, an otherwise good cop must resolve his life before he runs out of time.

Sunday – (PG-13) "Duplex," starring Drew Barrymore and Ben Stiller – Set in the competitive world of New York City real estate, a couple, whose dream home is a converted duplex apartment in the perfect neighborhood, decide to kill the sweet little old lady who's currently living there, or else they'll never get to buy it.

Eglin 882-1066

Friday and Sunday – (PG-13) "Under the Tuscan Sun," starring Diane Lane and Sandra Oh – Frances, fed up with her job and saddened by a recent divorce, goes on vacation in Italy. When she decides to stay and put down roots, she eventually finds a more rewarding life and a new chance at love.

Saturday – (PG-13) "Intolerable Cruelty," starring George Clooney and Catherine Zeta-Jones – Miles, a divorce lawyer nearing a midlife crisis, meets his match in his client's gold-digging wife, Marilyn. He's impressed by her similarly heartless ways of using marriage to fuel an expensive lifestyle, but he still defeats her in court. With Marilyn looking to get her revenge, and Miles finding himself attracted to her, the two engage in a ruthless romantic pursuit to out-swindle each other.

(Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone numbers are provided for patrons to confirm scheduled playdates.)

Gift of Groceries

With the holidays fast approaching, one way friends, family and the public can show support for military families is to give commissary gift certificates as gifts, or donate them directly to military charities that assist families. As part of the Gift of Groceries program, people can purchase commissary gift certificates at www.commissaries.com or by calling 1-800-770-GIFT.

AFNEWS mailing dates

The Air Force Print News reports the following dates for mailing items to and from overseas locations in time for the holidays:

Space-available mail – Nov. 28

Parcel airlift mail – Dec. 4

Priority and first-class letters or cards – Dec. 11

Customs forms are required on all international mail, and shipments should be properly packaged before sending them overseas. For more information, visit www.military.com.

Thanksgiving service

The annual Thanksgiving Community Service is held Monday at the Hurlburt Field Base Chapel at 12:15 p.m. Chaplain (Col.) Gary Carlson, command chaplain for the Air Force Special Operations Command, will be the featured speaker, and an offering for Operations Warmheart

will be received. A light lunch will be provided following the service in the chapel annex for those in attendance. For more information, call the chapel at 884-7795.

JROTC drill competition

The Hurlburt Field Honor Guard hosts the 9th Annual Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Drill Competition Saturday at the Corrosion Control Facility here. The competition includes: an open ranks inspection, regulation drill, freestyle drill, color guard and an individual drill down. Parking is limited, so bus transportation is recommended.

The event begins with an instructors and team commanders meeting at 7:30 a.m., with the competition beginning at 8:30 a.m. For more information, call Senior Airman Reina Barreiros at 884-5860 or 884-5330.

Coats for Kids

The Hurlburt Field community is collecting Coats for Kids until Wednesday. Anyone willing to donate unused coats – both child and adult sizes – can drop them off at the family support center lobby. For more information, call Heather Gerlach at 884-1553.

Pass, registration hours

The pass and registration office and the visitor control center begin the following new hours Dec. 1:

Pass and registration office hours will be: Monday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Visitor control center hours will be Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Visitor passes and vehicle decals can be obtained at the VCC during duty hours.

Classes

FSC classes

For more information, call 884-5441.

Employment Orientation – Monday, 9 a.m.; reservations required

Sponsorship Training – Monday, 1 p.m.; reservations required

Moms, Pops and Tots – Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m.

Veteran's Affairs/Social Security Briefing – Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. at the base theater; reservations required, call 884-6281.

HAWC classes

For more information, call 884-4292.

Fitness for Weight Management – Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.

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SPORTS

Fitness center locker rooms go to daily use

Courtesy of the 16th Services Squadron

To meet the overwhelming demand for lockers, the Main Fitness Center converted its locker room to "daily use" lockers only, Wednesday. The Commando Fitness Center will convert to daily use Jan. 1.

In July, Gen. John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff, announced sweeping changes to the Air Force fitness program. Gone is the cycle ergometry test and in are push-ups, sit-ups and the 1.5-mile run. These new criteria are bringing about significant changes in the way airmen manage their fitness and weight management programs.

The focus is no longer passing a fitness test once a year. Rather, it's about changing the culture of the Air Force; having airmen prepared to deploy and fight by making fitness a daily standard. The expectation is for commanders, supervisors and front-line leaders to lead the way through unit physical training, personal involvement and by example.

These changes are already impacting base fitness centers. Parking spaces are at a premium, the running track is overcrowded, and long lines of people are waiting to use cardio and strength training equipment.

"There just aren't enough lockers available for some people to have assigned lockers and still have enough daily use lockers available to accommodate the larger units when they have group physical fitness training," said Ed Vieth, Fitness Center Director.

The fitness staff is working hard to meet these new demands and still meet the needs of all its customers. The recently completed renovation project to the Main Fitness Center locker rooms is one such change. New lockers were added and showerheads repaired.

Although the new lockers are more spacious to accommodate uniforms, nearly 80 lockers were lost in the new design. Left with only a fraction of the lockers needed to accommodate the entire base population, the decision was made to convert all lockers back to daily use. For more information about the new policy, call the main fitness center at 884-4412.



Photos by Senior Airman Sam Taylor



Keesha Griffith (right) gets ready to pass the ball past the Eagle's defense. (left) Toby Bailey, 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron, shoots the ball.

Mixed results for Commandos

The Hurlburt Field men's and women's varsity basketball teams took on the Eagles at the Eglin Air Force Base main fitness center Saturday and Sunday.

The men's team fared well, beating Eglin 71-64 on Saturday, and 71-68 in an extremely fast-paced game Sunday. The women's team had a tougher time taking out the Eagles, and ended up with losses both games.

The Commandos face-off with the Keesler Air Force Base Dragons in four home games at the main fitness center this weekend: **Saturday**, women at 1 p.m., men at 3 p.m. **Sunday**, women at 11 a.m., men at 1 p.m.

Help the Commandos give Keesler a "proper welcome." Come out and support your team.

Hurlburt airmen team up to win triathlon

By Senior Airman Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

Two Hurlburt Field airmen, Jim Frazier and Brian McMahon teamed up to win the second-annual Team Triathlon adventure Race in Seaside, Fla., Oct. 26.

The pair were the "overall" winners of the race both years, beating 43 other two and four person teams this year with a combined event time of 1:14:52.

"The competition was very tough this year," said Frazier, 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

"But it's nice to meet so many people from all over and share racing experiences and training tips."

The Seaside triathlon put the athletes on a 6.2 mile mountain bike ride, a 1.5 mile two person kayak over a lake, and finished up with a four-mile run, half of which was through sand. Frazier said the kayak was the hardest part of the race.

"We don't do it regularly, if at all," he said. "My back bothered me the whole way, and Brian was worn out from the bike event, but

we struggled through it."

McMahon, 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron, said the two didn't train specifically for this competition. Their weekly training consists mostly of running about 50 miles a week preparing for the Jacksonville Marathon Dec. 14, where they'll compete against each other.

"The next time we race as teammates will probably be in next year's Seaside Adventure Tri," said McMahon. "We'll compete against each other in countless races before then, though."

Sports shorts

Turkey Trot

The 22nd annual Hurlburt Field Turkey Trot will be conducted at 8 a.m. Wednesday at the main fitness center. Participants must show up no later than 7:30 a.m. Call 884-6884 for more information.

Rugby players wanted

The Okaloosa Islanders Rugby Football Club is looking for new players at all levels of playing experience. Training sessions are currently held every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information, call J.C. at 882-6128.

